

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

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Serial No.: 09/479,648

Filed: January 7, 2000

For: METHOD OF APPLYING ADHESIVE COATED FILM

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-19, 32, and 33. Please amend claims 20-29 as indicated below. Please enter and consider new claims 34-66 as indicated below. The new and amended claims are provided below in clean form. Per 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, amended claims are also shown in Appendix A with notations to indicate changes made (for convenience, all pending claims, including those added hereby, are provided in Appendix A).

20. (AMENDED) An apparatus for softening a film and adhering the film to a surface of a substrate, the apparatus comprising:

- a) a heat source; and
b) a pressure source;

wherein the pressure source comprises a Heat Neutral Pressure Source and wherein the heat source and the pressure source direct heat and pressure on the film, and further wherein the heat source and the pressure source do not simultaneously apply heat and pressure to the same location on the film.

21. (AMENDED) The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein the heat source comprises at least one nozzle for directing heat toward the film.

22. (AMENDED) The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein the heat source operates at a temperature of greater than about 150°C.

23. (AMENDED) The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein the heat source generates radiant energy.

24. (AMENDED) The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein the heat source generates hot air.

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a4 25. (AMENDED) The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein the pressure source comprises a roller.

26. (AMENDED) The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein the pressure source comprises an annulus about the heat source.

27. (AMENDED) The apparatus of Claim 24, further comprising a deflector and a baffle in the line of hot air to redirect hot air from one location along the deflector to another location along the deflector.

28. (AMENDED) The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein the pressure source comprises a roller and wherein the film rotates on the roller prior to application to the surface.)

29. (AMENDED) A method of saving labor of adhering an adhesive-coated film to a substrate having a surface, comprising:

- (a) distributing a film to a party that has been taught to use the method of Claim 34;
- (b) optionally permitting such party to print an image on the film; and
- (c) permitting such party to use the method to adhere the film to a surface of the substrate.

a5 34. (NEW) A method of applying an adhesive-coated film to a substrate, the method comprising:

providing a film comprising pressure sensitive adhesive coated on a major surface of the film;

heating the film to the softening point of the film; and

pressing the film against a substrate with a Heat Neutral Pressure Source after heating the film, wherein the pressure sensitive adhesive on the major surface of the film adheres to the substrate.

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as 35. (NEW) A method according to claim 34, wherein the heating comprises heating the film using hot air.

36. (NEW) A method according to claim 34, wherein the heating comprises heating the film using infrared radiation.

37. (NEW) A method according to claim 34, wherein the Heat Neutral Pressure Source comprises a Thermal Conductivity of less than 1.8 BTU/hr-in-ft²-°F.

38. (NEW) A method according to claim 34, wherein the Heat Neutral Pressure Source comprises open cell foam material.

39. (NEW) A method according to claim 34, wherein the Heat Neutral Pressure Source comprises a roller.

40. (NEW) A method according to claim 34, wherein the substrate comprises a highly textured surface

41. (NEW) A method according to claim 34, wherein the substrate comprises (a wall.)

42. (NEW) A method according to claim 34, wherein the substrate comprises (a truck trailer wall.)

43. (NEW) A method according to claim 34, wherein (the adhesive comprises heat-activated adhesive.)

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44. (NEW) A method according to claim 34, wherein the adhesive comprises (pressure-activated adhesive.)

45. (NEW) A method of applying an adhesive-coated film to a wall, the method comprising:
providing a film comprising adhesive coated on a major surface of the film;
heating the film to the softening point of the film; and
pressing the film against a wall with a Heat Neutral Pressure Source, wherein the adhesive on the major surface of the film adheres to the wall.

46. (NEW) A method according to claim 45, wherein the pressing is performed after heating the film to the softening point of the film.

47. (NEW) A method according to claim 45, wherein the heating comprises heating the film using hot air.

48. (NEW) A method according to claim 45, wherein the heating comprises heating the film using infrared radiation.

49. (NEW) A method according to claim 45, wherein the Heat Neutral Pressure Source comprises a Thermal Conductivity of less than 1.8 BTU/hr-in-ft²-°F.

50. (NEW) A method according to claim 45, wherein the Heat Neutral Pressure Source comprises open cell foam material.

51. (NEW) A method according to claim 45, wherein the Heat Neutral Pressure Source comprises a roller.

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52. (NEW) A method according to claim 45, wherein the wall comprises a highly textured surface.

53. (NEW) A method according to claim 45, wherein the wall comprises (a truck trailer wall.)

54. (NEW) A method according to claim 45, wherein the adhesive comprises pressure sensitive adhesive.

55. (NEW) A method according to claim 45, wherein the adhesive comprises heat-activated adhesive.

56. (NEW) A method according to claim 45, wherein the adhesive comprises pressure-activated adhesive.

57. (NEW) ~~A method of applying an adhesive coated film to a substrate, the method comprising:~~

~~providing a film comprising adhesive coated on a major surface of the film;
heating the film to the softening point of the film using a heat source; and
pressing the film against a substrate with a Heat Neutral Pressure Source, the Heat Neutral Pressure Source comprising a Thermal Conductivity of less than 1.8 BTU/hr-in-ft²-°F, wherein the adhesive on the major surface of the film adheres to the substrate.~~

58. (NEW) A method according to claim 57, wherein the heating comprises heating the film using hot air.

59. (NEW) A method according to claim 57, wherein the heating comprises heating the film using infrared radiation.

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60. (NEW) A method according to claim 57, wherein the Heat Neutral Pressure Source comprises open cell foam material.

61. (NEW) A method according to claim 57, wherein the substrate comprises a highly textured surface.

62. (NEW) A method according to claim 57, wherein the substrate comprises (a wall.)

63. (NEW) A method according to claim 57, wherein the substrate comprises (a truck trailer wall.)

64. (NEW) A method according to claim 57, wherein the adhesive comprises pressure sensitive adhesive.

65. (NEW) A method according to claim 57, wherein the adhesive comprises heat-activated adhesive.

66. (NEW) A method according to claim 57, wherein the adhesive comprises pressure-activated adhesive.